AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for navigating and displaying a plurality of relational objects, ~~wherein the plurality of relational objects comprise a directed graph, the directed graph further comprising a plurality of hierarchies wherein a first of the plurality of hierarchies shares a common node with a second of the plurality of hierarchies, wherein the common node is the parent node for a child sub-tree, and wherein at least one of the first and second hierarchies does not include all nodes of the child sub-tree,~~ the method comprising:

receiving a selection input;

identifying, based on the selection input, a focus node, the focus node being one of a plurality of relational objects, wherein:

the plurality of relational objects comprise a node link structure;

the node link structure further comprising a plurality of hierarchies of nodes;

a first of the plurality of hierarchies shares the common node with a second of the plurality of hierarchies;

the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy and a second parent node in the second hierarchy;

the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

displaying the focus node on a display medium;

determining whether a child node of the focus node exists, wherein the child node comprises one of ~~the~~ a plurality of relational objects other than the focus node, the child node having a subordinate relationship with the focus node;

if a child node exists, displaying on the display medium, the child node;

determining whether a parent node of the focus node exists, wherein the parent node comprises one of the plurality of relational objects other than the focus node and the child node, the focus node having a relationship subordinate to the parent node; and

if a parent object exists, displaying on a display medium the parent node.

2. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein displaying the focus node further comprises displaying the focus node in a textual format, wherein the textual format is a format other than a format that illustrates the focus object and the first related object as nodes connected by a graphical relationship symbol such as a line or arrow.

3. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
displaying as a top grouping a subset of the plurality of relational objects; and
wherein receiving a selection input further comprises receiving a selection input that corresponds to a selected one of the relational objects in the top grouping.

4. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a find input;
performing a search of the plurality of relational objects in order to determine whether one or more of the relational objects is associated with the find input; and
if one or more of the relational objects is associated with the find input, displaying as a find grouping the one or more relational objects associated with the find input.

5. (Original) The method recited in Claim 4, wherein:
the selection input identifies one of the relational objects in the find grouping.

6. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:
one or more of the plurality of relational objects represents a person.

7. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the focus node is the common node of the first and second hierarchies.

8. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein identifying a context of the focus node comprises:
identifying a context of the focus node based on the selection input.

9. (New) A method of using a computer system for navigating and displaying a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

receiving data;

identifying, based on the received data, a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

identifying a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and

providing data to allow a display medium to display the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

10. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 further comprising:

providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

11. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein the context of the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

12. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 further comprising:

identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;

identifying the first and second parent nodes; and

identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

13. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein determining a context of the focus node comprises:

receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node, wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

14. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein identifying a context of the focus node comprises:

identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

15. (New) A method of using a computer system for navigating and displaying a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

providing data that identifies a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

providing data that identifies a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and

displaying, on a display medium, the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

16. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 further comprising:

displaying on a display medium the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

17. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein the context of the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

18. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 further comprising:

providing data to identify the first and second hierarchies of nodes;

providing data to identify the first and second parent nodes; and

providing data to identify the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

19. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein determining a context of the focus node comprises:

providing data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node, wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

20. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein identifying a context of the focus node comprises:

providing data identifying a context of the focus node.

21. (New) A computer program media comprising processor executable code for:

identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

identifying a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and

providing data to allow a display medium to display the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

22. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 further comprising processor executable code for:

providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

23. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 wherein the context of the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

24. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 further comprising processor executable code for:

identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;

identifying the first and second parent nodes; and

identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

25. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 wherein the code for determining a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node, wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

26. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 wherein the code for identifying a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:

identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

27. (New) A computer system comprising:

a processor, and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising processor executable code for:

identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

identifying a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and

providing data to allow a display medium to display the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

28. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 further comprising processor executable code for:

providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

29. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the context of the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

30. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 further comprising processor executable code for:

identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;

identifying the first and second parent nodes; and

identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

31. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the code for determining a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node, wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

32. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the code for identifying a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:

identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

33. (New) A computer system comprising:

means for identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

means for identifying a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and

means for providing data to allow a display medium to display the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.